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THE BARONIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

By Henry A. M. Smith.

V.

THE SEEWEE BARONY.

The most ancient name of the Barony granted to Sir Nathaniel Johnson, Knt., was the "Seewee" Barony. So denominated because of its location on the Northern shore of the large bay on the coast of South Carolina now known as "Bulls" bay, but originally called by the Indian name of Shee-a-wee¹ or Shee-a-way, later corrupted or modified into Seewee and Sewee.² The name Shee-a-wee seems to have been applied to the country adjoining the bay as well as to the bay itself.³ The large Island lying to the south-east of the bay was called by the Indians Oni-se-cau, but having been at first taken up by Col. Stephen Bull was called Bulls Island,⁴ and this name soon extended to the adjoining bay which was known as Bulls bay, which name it still bears. The name Sewee is now confined, on Mill's

¹Secy. State's Off., Grant Bk. 38, p. 331.

²Printed Council Journal for 11 May, 1692, p. 22.

³Ibid, for 14 July, 1677, p. 82.

⁴Ibid, for 6 May, 1692, p. 16.

Atlas of Charleston County and on the U. S. Coast Survey maps, to a shallow sound of comparatively restricted area, lying between Bulls Island and the mainland and separated by intervening marshes and mud flats from Bulls bay.

The Barony was later mentioned as the Auendaw Barony, presumably from the Auendaw river or creek which runs through a part of the Barony. The Indian name Auendaw was originally spelled as Au-en-dau-boo-e⁵ river then shortened to Au-en-dau-boo, then to Auendaw, and on the U. S. Coast Survey maps now spelled Owendaw.

Sir Nathaniel Johnson was probably from Kibblesworth (or Keblesworth) in the County of Durham. This is inferred by the writer from the following circumstances.

On 31st August, 1702, Sir Nathaniel gave his bond to the Royal Government for the due observance and enforcement by him of the Acts concerning Trade and Navigation in the execution of his office of Governor of the Province of South Carolina.⁶ One of his sureties was:

"Robert Johnson of Keblesworth County of Durham son of Sir Nathaniel Johnson."

One of the plantations granted to Sir Nathaniel in South Carolina (viz: 500 acres adjoining "Silk Hope" granted 3^d Oct', 1704) we find styled by his son Robert in his will "New Keblesworth" and a plantation in the Parish of St. Johns Berkeley which belonged to Thomas Broughton, a grandson of Sir Nathaniel, was also named "Kibblesworth."

Governor Robert Johnson in his will styles his plantation "New Keblesworth", and it is spelled in the same way "Keblesworth" in the deed from his son Robert⁸ (grandson of Sir Nathaniel) to Gabriel Manigault in 1739, but the spelling on the map of Durham County in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* is "Kibblesworth."

On 1st April, 1686, Sir Nathaniel Johnson was created

⁵Off. Hist. Comm., Memorial Bk. 3, p. 376.

⁶Coll^{ns} Hist. Society of S. C., Vol. 2, p. 209.

⁷Prob. Ct. Charleston, Will Bk. 1732-1737, p. 187.

⁸M. C. O. Charleston, Bk. T., pp. 248-250.

a Cassique by the Lords Proprietors of Carolina, with the right to two baronies of 12,000 acres each.⁹ As he was then "Sir" he must have received knighthood from the King some time before. The record does not show whether at that time he came to Carolina and the validity of the grant of these two baronies was afterwards doubted, the opinion of the Attorney General being adverse to the validity.¹⁰

On 12th September, 1686, he was commissioned by the King Governor of the Leeward Islands, viz: the Islands of St. Christopher, Nevis, Antigua and Montserrat.¹¹

On the accession of King William and Queen Mary to the throne of England Sir Nathaniel found himself unwilling to continue to hold his place as Governor, and on 24th May, 1689, wrote to the Lords of Trade and Plantations from Antigua asking for leave to retire.¹² His known opinions drew down on him many caustic charges from his enemies and the friends of the new order in the Islands, from all of which he vindicated himself. The space of this article forbids the going into the details of these charges and of his conduct while in the post of Governor of the Islands. It is only justice to the memory of an able and upright man that there be inserted here what Mr. J. W. Fortescue says of him in his preface to vol. for 1689-1692, Calendar of State Papers, America and West Indies, viz:

"Before leaving however Johnson drew up his defence one of the most manly straightforward and dignified documents which I have encountered in these records. Amidst all the craven changes of that mean and pitiful time this man remained honest and patriotic, faithful to him whom he judged to be his lawful king, yet never unfaithful to his country. He retired to Carolina and it is with regret that we part with him."

⁹Collections Hist. Society, Vol. 2, p. 123.

¹⁰Ibid, p. 126.

¹¹Cal. of St. Papers, Am. & West Indies, 1685-1688, p. 242.

¹²Ibid, vol. for 1689-1692, p. 43.

In the course of this defence (written 15th July, 1689), Sir Nathaniel said:¹³

"I design as speedily as possible to move to Carolina, where I have a small settlement, and to spend some time in the improvement of it for the support of myself and family."

On 28th July, 1689, Sir Nathaniel sailed for Carolina.¹⁴ His family had embarked for England on 27th June preceding;¹⁵ on their voyage they were taken prisoners by the French, suffered great losses and privations, and were kept in confinement upwards of a year under all which Lady Johnson died.¹⁶

Where he first established his first settlement in Carolina, alluded to above, the record we have between 1689 and 1696 does not disclose. On 24th June, 1696, a grant was issued to him for 1,940 acres on the Eastern Branch of Cooper river at a place called "Silk Hope."¹⁷ Warrants for land were frequently issued and the land surveyed and taken possession of by the person some time—not unfrequently years—before the formal grant was actually issued.

It is not unlikely that such was the case here and that Sir Nathaniel took possession and settled in 1689 on the land for which the grant was issued in 1696. Probably it was from him it acquired the name "Silk Hope" by which it was known when the grant was issued and by which it has ever since continued to be called. On 8th July, 1696, another grant was issued to him for 600 acres¹⁸ to the Northwest side of Seewee (Bulls) Bay, afterwards called "Salt Hope", so that "Hope" seemed to be a characteristic name in his settlements. "Silk Hope" however seems to have been his home place and residence.

On 18th June, 1702, he was commissioned by the Lords

¹³Ibid, p. 86.

¹⁴Ibid, p. 111.

¹⁵Ibid, p. 74.

¹⁶Coll. Hist. Society of S. C., Vol 3, p. 281.

¹⁷Off. Secy. of State, Grant Bk. 38, p. 298.

¹⁸Ibid, p. 299.

Proprietors Governor of the Province of South Carolina.¹⁹ His administration of his office including the gallant repulse of the attack on Charles Town by the combined Spanish and French forces is part of the history of South Carolina and need not be here recapitulated. In 1703 he was created a Landgrave by the Proprietors²⁰ and on 22^d June, 1709, a grant was issued to him for 12,000 acres on Auendaubooe Creek.²¹ This was the estate always afterwards known as his "Barony."

In one of the earliest mentions of it it is styled "Seewee Barony" and is stated to have been granted to Sir Nathaniel for his services to the Province.²²

D^r. Ramsay in his History of South Carolina states that the Proprietors were so pleased with Governor Johnson's conduct on the defeat of the French and Spaniards,²³

"that they made him a present of a large tract of
"land by a special grant on terms the most flattering
"and honourable."

And that

"This land and the original special grant are now
"in the possession of Joseph Manigault."

The reference by D^r. Ramsay is thus unquestionably to this grant of 12,000 acres on 22^d June, 1709.

Sir Nathaniel Johnson died in 1713 and his lands, including this Barony, passed under his Will to his son Robert Johnson, whom as we have seen in 1702, was of Keblesworth in the County of Durham. The name of "New Keblesworth" was given either by Sir Nathaniel or his son Robert, to a tract of 500 acres granted to Sir Nathaniel on 3^d October, 1704, adjoining the "Silk Hope" tract. This "Keblesworth" is not to be confused with the

¹⁹Coll^{ns} Hist. Society of S. C., Vol. 1, p. 151.

²⁰McCrary Hist. of S. C., 1670-1719, p. 718.

²¹Off. Hist. Comⁿ, Memorial Bk., Vol 3, p. 379.

²²Ibid, Memorial Bk., Vol 7, p. 44.

²³Ramsay Hist. of S. C., Vol. 1, p. 135.

"Kibblesworth" plantation in the Parish of St. James Goose Creek, at Oakley Station, on the Atlantic Coast Line, which is part of the original Mulberry grant of 4,423 acres²⁴ to Sir Peter Colleton, which his son Sir John Colleton conveyed to Thomas Broughton, who married a daughter of Sir Nathaniel and by whom (or one of his sons) the place was called "Kibblesworth."

Robert Johnson, who thus succeeded his father Sir Nathaniel in the ownership of the Barony was on 30th April, 1717, commissioned by the Lords Proprietors Governor of the Province in succession to the Honorable Charles Craven.²⁵ The difficulties between the people of the Province and the Lords Proprietors which had been long growing, culminated in December, 1719, in open revolt and the complete refusal by the people of any further submission to the authority of the Lords Proprietors.

For these difficulties and the consequent upheaval Governor Johnson was in no wise responsible. On the contrary, in so great esteem was he held by the people that they urged on him that he should continue in his post as Governor, holding that post however in the name and on behalf of the King and not of the Lords Proprietors.²⁶ Governor Johnson being cast in the same loyal and heroic mould as his father unhesitatingly refused this offer, adhered to the cause of those from whom he had received his commission and thus lost his post, and owing to the disbursements made from his private means for the public benefit was poorer by £1,000 sterling than when he had assumed the office.²⁷

The Crown having finally acquired the province from the Lords Proprietors, appointed in November, 1729, Robert Johnson, then styled "Col.", as Royal Governor of the Province.²⁸ He does not seem to have spent the whole time in the province between the overthrow of the proprietary government in 1719 and his appointment as Royal Gov-

²⁴S. C. Hist. & Genealog. Mag., Vol XI, p. 195.

²⁵Collections S. C. Hist. Soc., Vol. 1, p. 165.

²⁶McCrary Hist. of S. C., 1670-1719, p. 652.

²⁷Collections Hist. Soc. of S. C., Vol. 3, p. 280.

²⁸Ibid, Vol. 2, p. 120.

ernor in 1729, as on his appointment he seems to have left England and proceeded to Charles Town in December, 1730, to take charge of his post.²⁹ After holding his office for five years he died in Charles Town on Saturday, 3^d May, 1735, and was buried in a vault near the altar in the Church of St. Philip.

In the contemporary notice of his death, published in the South Carolina Gazette for 10th May, 1735, it is stated:

“His Pall was supported by the Gentlemen of the
“Council and his Corps was attended to the Grave by
“the Lower House of Assembly headed by their
“Speaker and a numerous Body of Gentlemen and
“Ladies who came from all Parts of the Province
“where timely Notice could be had of his death to
“pay their last Respects to one whom they might
“justly look upon as their common Father.” * * *
“His Excellency died in the 59th year of his age and
“in the 5th of his Government. He had on his ad-
“vancement disposed of all his Patrimony in England
“so that his Interest might concur with his Inclina-
“tions in promoting the Welfare of that Country his
“Majesty had done him the Honour to intrust him
“with the Care of.”

By the Will of Governor Robert Johnson the Barony was divided among his three sons, viz: to his son Robert 4,570 acres, to his son Nathaniel 4,570 acres and to his son Thomas 2,860 acres.³⁰ Nathaniel died under age after his father's death, and his 4,570 acres was divided between his two brothers, 2,285 acres going to each, thus giving to Robert 6,855 acres and to Thomas 5,145 acres.³¹

Robert, the eldest son of Governor Robert Johnson, on 8th May, 1739, conveyed several tracts of land in the Province inherited from his father, including his 6,855 acres of the Barony, to Gabriel Manigault,³² who had been one of

²⁹Ibid, p. 128.

³⁰Prob. Ct. Charleston, Bk. 1732-1737, p. 187.

³¹Off. Hist. Comm., Memorial Bk. 7, p. 446.

³²M. C. O. Charleston, Bk. T., p. 248.

the Executors and Trustees under the Will of his father and styled by Governor Robert Johnson in his Will as "my "beloved Kinsman Gabriel Manigault."

The other 5,145 acres of the Barony belonging to Thomas Johnson on his death some years later passed under his Will to his brother Robert, who on 12th March, 1763, conveyed this 5,145 acres also to Gabriel Manigault.³³ The effect of these two conveyances was to vest in Gabriel Manigault the entire Barony.

Gabriel Manigault was the son of Pierre Manigault, the emigrant of that name, and was himself an eminent and successful merchant of Charles Town, in which place he was born in 1704.³⁴ He was Treasurer of the Province, a member of the Provincial House of Commons and in all respects an exemplary and representative citizen. He accumulated a large fortune and on the outbreak of the Revolutionary War was able to lend the State of South Carolina \$220,000, the greater portion of which was never repaid. In 1779, when Prevost at the head of the British forces threatened Charles Town, Mr. Manigault, although over 75 years of age, appeared in the ranks with his grandson, Joseph Manigault, then only 15 years of age, to do battle in defence of his native city.³⁵

Gabriel Manigault died in 1781, and under his Will the Barony was devised to his two grandsons, Joseph and Gabriel Manigault, the sons of his son Peter, who had died in 1773.

Peter Manigault who had died before his father had been for many years a prominent citizen of the Province, and for several years Speaker of the colonial Lower or Commons House of Assembly.

By a deed of Partition between Joseph and Gabriel Manigault dated 2^d Decr., 1788, "the Barony of Auendaw" and the "Salt Ponds" were allotted to Joseph Manigault,³⁶ who died in 1843, leaving a large family and by a conveyance

³³Ibid, Bk. A. 3, p. 99.

³⁴Transactions of the Huguenot Society of S. C. No. 4, for 1897, p. 48.

³⁵Ramsay Hist. of S. C., Vol. 2, p. 501.

³⁶M. C. O. Charleston, Bk. H. 6., p. 532.

from his other children on 20th March, 1856, the Auendaw Barony was vested in his son Peter³⁷. Of the sons of Joseph Manigault, two, Edward and Arthur, served their country throughout both the Mexican and the Confederate wars. Edward was a Major in the Mexican war and held the same rank in an artillery command during the war between the States. He was desperately wounded and captured by the enemy in February, 1865. Arthur Middleton Manigault served as first lieutenant in the Palmetto regiment during the Mexican War. He was Colonel of the 10th Regiment, S. C. V., in the war between the States, and in command of the military district on the coast, with Georgetown as his headquarters. He was ordered with his regiment to Bragg's army in the Spring of 1862, and served throughout the war in the West, being promoted to Brigadier General in 1864. He was twice elected Adjutant-General of the State of South Carolina after the war. Peter Manigault, to whom the Barony had been conveyed, enlisted as a private in the 3^d South Carolina Cavalry during the war between the States, at the age of 56, and served throughout the war, until November, 1864, when he was killed, in his 60th year, at Oconee bridge in Georgia, in an encounter with the advance of Sherman's army.

On his death the barony descended to his brothers and sisters, and in 1870 the property was finally sold away by the family.³⁸

From 1709, the date of the grant, until 1870 the Barony was held intact by two families, the Johnson and the Manigault families, of whom it can be said, that for distinguished and loyal service to the country and for high and self-respecting conduct and citizenship in that time their record is surpassed by none.

³⁷Ibid, Bk. S. 15, p. 49.

³⁸M. C. O. Charleston, Bk. D. 16, p. 51.